
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Governing Council

Twentieth session

Bangkok, Thailand, 09 and 10 December 2024

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Matters arising from the nineteenth session of the Governing Council**Matters arising from the nineteenth session of the
Governing Council¹****Note by the secretariat**

The present document provides a summary of actions that have been or are being taken by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific to implement recommendations made by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session and thereafter.

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The Council took note of the actions and activities undertaken by the Institute to implement the recommendations made by the eighteenth session. The Council noted with appreciation the resumption of in-person training courses along with online training courses. The Council requested the Institute to continue its effort in providing online courses and training in other languages to widen the training audience.

Council members noted the strong demand for training on data and statistical literacy and communication, and user engagement for

Action taken/current status

Noted.

The Institute conducted courses, workshops and webinars in online mode and face-to-face mode. The mode of the course was decided based on scalability, costs, complexity of training etc. In 2024, the Institute continued to provide courses in other languages. For example, it conducted a course on climate change and biodiversity indicators targeted at Central Asian and Caucuses with simultaneous Russian interpretation. Several new online courses have also been translated into Russian and Mongolian based on requests from member states. Until 25 October 2024, the Institute conducted around 11 online courses including workshops and webinars.

The Institute conducted:

- (i) Leadership training course which was attended by senior and middle-level managers as a face-to-face course, as this course was at an

¹ Issued without formal editing

Matter arising

policy makers and other data users, and leadership training for middle managers.

The Council reviewed the performance of the Institute and showed appreciation for its work in developing new training courses. The Council requested that the Institute collaborate with member states in conducting national e-learning courses utilizing the already available e-learning courses based on requests from members states and to incorporate knowledge sharing sessions in its courses. It recommended making the e-learning courses more accessible to staff of the broader national statistical system.

The Council commended the active involvement of the Institute, jointly with some Asia and Pacific countries, in the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST), a network of international, regional, and national statistical organizations and

Action taken/current status

advanced level and detailed instructions were necessary.

(ii) User engagement was conducted as e-learning courses.

The Institute incorporates training sessions on statistical literacy, communication, user engagement and institutional mechanisms in all its training courses as appropriate.

(i) The Institute developed 20 new training courses till 31 October 2024 based on the requests of the member states.

(ii) The courses were delivered both in face-to-face and online mode.

(iii) All e-learning courses of SIAP including self-paced courses were uploaded on LMS. The courses are open to all and free of charge.

(iv) Country presentations are encouraged in all courses as in following examples:

(a) In the Workshop on Quality of Statistics, all countries made presentations and shared their experiences.

(b) In the Training Workshop on an Accounting Approach to Climate Change and Biodiversity in Central Asia, all countries shared their experience in the course topic.

(c) Similar approach was used for the Regional Course on Crime Statistics from a Gender Perspective with dedicated agenda items for country experience sharing on specific types of crimes.

The Institute continues to scale up its engagement with staff of the broader national statistical system. In several in-person training courses, participants from line ministries and NSO were invited to facilitate collaboration across institutions at the country level. There is strong demand from the staff of national statistical systems to attend online training. For example, over 20% of the participants of the e-learning course on The International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics were from outside of the NSO.

The Institute is a member of the Task Team 1 on Learning Culture of GIST and is closely working with GIST regarding the development and conduct of statistical literacy and STAT Tool courses.

Matter arising

training institutions working together to build sustainable statistical capacities worldwide through efficient, effective, and harmonized delivery of training.

The Council thanked member states for completing the training needs survey and requested all member states to complete future training needs surveys so that the Institute can develop training to fit the needs of the countries and to assist in the formulation of the 2025-2029 strategic plan.

The Council acknowledged the contributions of member states, associate members, and statistical development partners in the Institute's achievement of the programme of work in 2023. The Council further acknowledged countries who are willing to provide financial and in-kind contributions including hosting regional, subregional and national courses, and providing relevant expertise. The Council reiterated the need for the Institute to continuously update the courses it offers and to routinely continue to acquire staff with skills to match the current and emerging trends in official statistics.

The Council reviewed progress made thus far in the implementation of the strategic plan for 2020-2024 along with the strategic outline for the 2025-2029 plan. The Council requested that a Friends of Chair group comprised of all members of the Council, as well as one member each from the Pacific region and one from Central Asia region be constituted to provide inputs and overall guidance to the drafting of Strategic Plan 2025-2029. The Council requested that a work plan for the Friends of the Chair be developed by the secretariat as soon as possible and shared with the group. The Council further requested that the role of the national training institutes be considered in the new strategic plan and due focus be given to emerging topics.

The Council reviewed and endorsed the Work Programme and Financial Plan of the Institute for the year 2024. The Council noted the various suggestions by countries on topics such as Big Data-related and agriculture statistics courses and invited SIAP, with the support of United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and ESCAP Statistics Division, to strengthen its partnerships with the recently

Action taken/current status

The Institute conducted the training needs survey in May-June 2024 and received 25 responses. The results of the survey will be covered in the activities and financial status of SIAP under Agenda item 3 of the Governing Council and have been reflected in Item 4, draft work programme and financial plan of the Institute for 2025.

The Institute each year formulates its workplan based on the priorities of ESCAP, United Nations, and requirements of the member states and all of them are based on current and emerging topics. The Institute has been receiving contributions from the member states and a financial statement is available in the annex tables of the Director's report. The Institute has recently finished recruiting a new lecturer/statistician for economic statistics.

The Institute created a Friends of Chair (FoC) group consisting of all the members of the Governing Council and Georgia, Fiji (representation from Central Asia and Pacific) to provide inputs and overall guidance to the drafting of Strategic Plan 2025-2029. The workplan for FoC was developed and circulated to FoC in April 2024. A questionnaire requesting inputs on international collaborations and interest in future collaboration with SIAP was circulated to national training institutes in the region. Meetings were arranged for getting inputs from FoC and national training institutes for developing the 2025-29 Strategic Plan.

SIAP conducted courses on Machine Learning and GIS for Landcover estimation in Vanuatu, Web Scraping for CPI etc. A course in collaboration with UNSD to strengthen partnerships with the Big Data Hub in Indonesia is scheduled in February 2025.

Matter arising

established Regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science for Asia and the Pacific in Indonesia and the Global Hub in China in Support of the UN Global Platform.

Action taken/current status